


		NTSB ID: WAS04RA010		Aircraft Registration Number: 3X-GDO	
		Occurrence Date: 12/25/2003		Most Critical Injury: Fatal	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By:	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Cotonou		State	Zip Code	Local Time 1259	Time Zone UTC
Airport Proximity:		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 727-223		Type of Aircraft Airplane	
Sightseeing Flight:			Air Medical Transport Flight:		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On December 25, 2003 at 1259 UTC, Guinean registry 3X-GDO, a Boeing 727-223, operated by Union Des Transports Africain S.A (UTA), a scheduled international flight, crashed at Cotonou Airport (COO), Cotonou, Benin. Visual meteorological condition prevailed. One of the three flightcrew, four of the five cabin crew, and 136 of the 150 passengers were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed. There was no fire. The flight originated at Conakry, Guinea. The destination was Beirut, Lebanon with an intermediate refueling stop at Koufra, Libya.</p> <p>The flight was on takeoff from runway 24, when shortly after lift off the landing gear struck a navigational aid facility, located about 200 feet beyond the end of the runway. The aircraft subsequently descended and collided on the waterfront of a beach about 2000 feet from the airport.</p> <p>The investigation is being conducted by the French government Bureau D'Enquetes Et D'Analyses (BEA) on behalf of the Republic of Benin. The U.S. Accredited representative is Dennis Jones, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

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<b>Landing Facility/Approach Information</b>					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Type Instrument Approach:					
VFR Approach/Landing:					
<b>Aircraft Information</b>					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 727-223		Serial Number	
Airworthiness Certificate(s):					
Landing Gear Type:					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats:	Certified Max Gross Wt. LBS		Number of Engines:	
Engine Type:	Engine Manufacturer:	Model/Series:		Rated Power:	
<b>- Aircraft Inspection Information</b>					
Type of Last Inspection	Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection Hours		Airframe Total Time Hours	
<b>- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information</b>					
ELT Installed?	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?			
<b>Owner/Operator Information</b>					
Registered Aircraft Owner		Street Address			
		City	State	Zip Code	
Operator of Aircraft Union Des Transports Africains S.A.		Street Address Quartier Almamy C. Saloum BP: 6041			
		City Conakry	State	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:		
<b>- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None</b>					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Non-U.S., Commercial					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Non-scheduled; International; Passenger Only					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

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<b>First Pilot Information</b>									
Name		City		State	Date of Birth	Age			
On File									
Sex:	Seat Occupied:	Principal Profession:		Certificate Number: On File					
Certificate(s):									
Airplane Rating(s):									
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA:									
Instrument Rating(s):									
Instructor Rating(s):									
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft?				Current Biennial Flight Review?					
Medical Cert.:		Medical Cert. Status:		Date of Last Medical Exam:					
<b>- Flight Time Matrix</b>	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument Actual Simulated	Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
Total Time									
Pilot In Command(PIC)									
Instructor									
Last 90 Days									
Last 30 Days									
Last 24 Hours									
Seatbelt Used?		Shoulder Harness Used?		Toxicology Performed?		Second Pilot?			
<b>Flight Plan/Itinerary</b>									
Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR									
Departure Point					State	Airport Identifier	Departure Time	Time Zone	
Same as Accident/Incident Location						COO		UTC	
Destination					State	Airport Identifier			
beirut									
Type of Clearance:									
Type of Airspace:									
<b>Weather Information</b>									
Source of Briefing:									
Method of Briefing:									
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<b>Weather Information</b>					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
COO	1338		Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Scattered			4500 Ft. AGL		Condition of Light:
Lowest Ceiling: None			Ft. AGL	Visibility: 8 SM	Altimeter: "Hg
Temperature: 32 °C		Dew Point: °C	Wind Direction: 170		Density Altitude: Ft.
Wind Speed: 7		Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions		
Visibility (RVR): Ft.		Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:		
Restrictions to Visibility:					
Type of Precipitation:					


<b>Accident Information</b>					
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed		Aircraft Fire:		Aircraft Explosion	
Classification:					
- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot		1			1
Second Pilot	1				1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer		1			1
Cabin Attendants	4	1			5
Other Crew					
Passengers	136	22			158
- TOTAL ABOARD -	141	25			166
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -	141	25			166

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	Occurrence Type: Accident	
Administrative Information		
<p>Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)</p> <p>Dennis L. Jones</p>		
<p>Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:</p> <p>Victoria Anderson FAA Headquarters AAI-100, Washington, D.C.</p>		
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